



Fields of wonder for Arizona's wildflower wanderers

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ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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MUELLER CHARGES 16

Indictment: Russian nationals, businesses attempted to swing 2016 election; Trump insists 'no collusion'

Special counsel Robert Mueller handed down an indictment Friday leveling criminal charges against 13 Russian nationals and three businesses for trying to meddle in the 2016 presidential election in support of Donald Trump.

Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein announced the charges and noted that the indictment doesn't claim the effort altered the results of the election between Trump and Democratic rival

Hillary Clinton.

And Trump took the opportunity to insist he and his campaign had been vindicated, tweeting yet again that there was "no collusion!"

But Mueller's team also uncovered new details indicating the Russian campaign was motivated to help elect Trump.

Full story, 1B

In one internal memo, prosecutors said, the Internet Research Agency told its employees to "use any opportunity to criticize Hillary and the rest (except Sanders and Trump — we support them)." In another, they said it is "imperative to intensify criticizing Hillary Clinton."



Special counsel Robert Mueller has charged Russian nationals and businesses with trying to meddle in the 2016 presidential election. ANDREW HARNIK/AP

6-foot-5 Glendale 14-year-old's career goal: Play in the NBA — and piano at Carnegie Hall



Keys to the game

Richard Obert Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

After long days at Phoenix's North Canyon High School solving advanced calculus equations and taking endless jump shots in the gym, J.D. Tsasa finds peace at the piano in his Glendale home.

Only 14, still growing at almost 6 feet 5 inches, and with a 7-foot wingspan, his long fingers carefully float across the keys, performing music he created from his heart, mixing the influences of Chopin, Bach, Miles Davis and John Coltrane.

This is his escape, his hope for the future, as he confronts big decisions in his life.

Glendale's J.D. Tsasa, 14, has a 7-foot wingspan and has shown glimpses of basketball potential. He's also a classically trained pianist.

NICK OZA/
THE REPUBLIC

"I plan to be a professional musician and a professional basketball player," Tsasa says.

Gratia Saamdi, his mother, raised her only son by herself. They moved from Colorado four years ago, and Saamdi has watched her son accelerate, at an early age, from a disruptive kindergartner who needed challenges, to a first-grader taking fifth-grade math and English, to a guitar player who moved on to the piano, to finding basketball four years ago.

Everything has come fast to Tsasa, while his mom has tried to slow him down. He was going to graduate from North

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Bill could let state's pols draw districts

Overhaul of independent commission also sought

Dustin Gardiner Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Republican state lawmakers are pushing a November ballot proposition that would ask voters to overhaul the panel that draws Arizona's political boundaries — a move that could affect which party holds power at the state Capitol.

The proposition would also give state legislators the authority to potentially sketch their own district boundaries, as well as those of Arizona's members of Congress.

Supporters said the proposal is in-

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Why a Phoenix 'stupid hiker' law might not work

Jessica Boehm Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

It may be rainy and cool this weekend, but it's only a matter of time until Arizona's infamous dry heat envelopes the Valley, bringing with it a rise in mountain rescues.

Phoenix has more than 41,000 acres of desert parks and mountain preserves and 200 miles of trails that attract more than 3 million hikers each year. Last year, the Fire Department rescued 259 hikers — 95 of whom required a helicopter evacuation.

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OLYMPICS SPORTS, 1C



Juraj Valach (16) of Slovakia and Arizona native Broc Little (14) of the United States fight for the puck in hockey competition Friday at the Gangneung Hockey Centre. BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

School won't punish kids who made racist video

Santan Junior High School students who chanted racist lyrics to an anti-black song on a video that surfaced last month won't be punished by the school, the principal tells parents in a letter, saying that the school has no legal authority since the video was made off school grounds. 3A

Fla. shooter tip missed

The FBI admits it received a tip about Florida shooting suspect Nikolas Cruz in January but didn't forward the information for investigation. 20A

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